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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 EA-10 OES-09 ACDA-12 DOE-15
SOE-02 EB-08 /133 W
----------004745 300733Z /14
R 291035Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3676
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, PEPR, IN, PK, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GOHEEN'S REMARKS ON
REPROCESSING AND US ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 13033; (B) ISLAMABAD 8420 (NOTAL)

1. AT A PRESS CLUB OF INDIA LUNCHEON AUGUST 26 AMBASSADOR GOHEEN ANSWERED QUESTIONS OF BOTH INDIAN AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. THERE FOLLOWS TRANSCRIPT OF TWO QUESTION AND ANSWERS ON U.S. ARMS POLICY AND SUPPLY PUT BY INDIAN JOURNALISTS. (AT ITS REQUEST, WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING PAKISTANI EMBASSY WITH SAME TRANSCRIPT.)

2. QUESTION: COULD YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THE REPORTED MOVE TO RESUME ARMS SALE TO PAKISTAN, AND THE SECOND POINT, IS THIS THE RESUMPTION OF THE OLD BALANCE-OF-POWER POLICY IN THE SUB-CONTINENT?
ANSWER: "WELL, THE ANSWER TO THE LAST IS NO. WE HAVE AN
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ARMS POLICY FOR THE WORLD WHICH IS TRYING TO REDUCE AMERICAN ARMS SALES AND PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES TO REDUCE ARMS SALES. WE HAVE AN ARMS POLICY FOR SOUTH ASIA THAT APPLIES EQUALLY TO ALL OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA. WE TRY TO IMPLEMENT THAT MORE GENERAL POLICY. ELEMENTS OF IT ARE THAT WE WILL NOT GIVE ARMS AWAY. THEY HAVE TO BE ON A CASH BASIS. EMBASSIES, INCLUDING MILITARY ATTACHES, ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PROMOTE ARMS

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SALES. OUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTRODUCE INTO THIS REGION OR ANY REGION A NEW LEVEL OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY THAT UPS THE MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF ANY POWER. AND WE WILL SEEK TO AVOID DOING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT TRIGGER OFF AN ARMS RACE WITHIN A PARTICULAR REGION. THAT MEANS OUR ABILITY AS WELL AS OUR DESIRE TO MEET ANY PAKISTANTI REQUEST FOR AID OR ANY INDIAN REQUEST FOR AID ARE QUITE LIMITED. WE HAVE HAD A FURTHER LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO PAKISTAN RECENTLY. THERE IS A PART OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION WHICH SAYS THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMERICAN ARMS SUPPLY TO ANY COUNTRY WHICH IMPORTS TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS. THIS HAS MEANT THAT FOR SOME TIME NOW WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RESPOND TO ANY PAKISTANTI REQUEST FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE.

LET ME STEP BACK TO SAY IN LINE WITH THE BASIC POLICY WHICH I INDICATED BEFORE, I GUESS IT WAS PROBABLY PRECISELY 14 MONTHS AGO THE PRESIDENT TURNED DOWN A REQUEST OF PAKISTAN FOR AMERICAN A-7 AIRPLANES BECAUSE THEY WOULD INTRODUCE A HIGHER LEVEL OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY INTO SOUTH ASIA. THAT DECISION STILL APPLIES. NOTHING IS GOING TO CHANGE THAT POLICY.

IF PAKISTAN COMES TO US--IF IT IS TRUE, LET ME PUT THIS BIG IF--IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE FRENCH-PAKISTAN DEAL ON REPROCESSING IS OFF, PAKISTAN IS THEN FREE TO COME TO US TO ASK FOR
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ARMS SUPPLY. WE WILL RESPOND TO PAKISTANI REQUESTS FOR ARMS SUPPLY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THIS POLICY I MENTIONED, JUST AS WE WOULD RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM INDIA OR CEYLON OR NEPAL OR AFGHANISTAN WITHIN THAT SAME POLICY."

3. QUESTION: COULD I ASK FOR A CLARIFICATION TO AN EARLIER REPLY. YOU TALKED OF THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGY IN THE REGION. DO YOU SEE INDIA ACQUIRING DEEP PENETRATION STRIKE AIRCRAFT AS THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGY IN THE REGION?
ANSWER: "WE HAVE SAID TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEIR REPUTED PLANS TO ACQUIRED MACHINES AS SOPHISTICATED AND POWERFUL AS THE JAGUARS OR ADVANCED MIRAGES DOES CONCERN US BECAUSE IT WILL LIFT THE LEVEL OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND WILL CERTAINLY LEAD THE PAKISTANIS TO COME TO US AND OTHER POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS AND SAYING, NOW THE INDIANS HAVE GOT IT WE'VE GOT TO HAVE IT OR SOMETHING EQUIVALENT. SO INDIA OVER TEN YEARS COMMITS ITSELF TO SPENDING TWO BILLION DOLLARS FOR DEEP PENETRATION STRIKE AIRCRAFT--THIS IS ALL HYPOTHETICAL--PAKISTAN RUNS OFF TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR TWO BILLION DOLLARS TO BUY EQUIVALENT AIRCRAFT. AT THE END OF TEN YEARS THEY ARE BOTH STRONGER THAN THEY ARE NOW BUT IN ROUGHLY THE SAME EQUIVALENCE, AND

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FOUR BILLION DOLLARS IS GONE. WE'RE NOT SURE THAT IS TERRIBLY
GOOD."
GOHEEN

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Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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